(c) Does not arise.

(d) Under the Scheme "National Project of Organic Farming", Government is promoting the production and use of bio-fertilizers by providing financial assistance for setting up of bio-fertilizers production units and on promoting bio-fertilizers.

Huge loss of cereal production due to climate change

1944. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge loss of cereal production due to climate change;

(b) if so, whether the ICAR has taken up any study to assess the loss of cereal production due to climate change;

(c) if so, the percentage of decline in the last three years and in the coming decade;

(d) the details of cereals that are going to be worst affected due to climate change; and

(e) what plans his Ministry has to overcome this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir. There is considerable uncertainty about the magnitude of loss, however, preliminary studies suggest that loss in cereal production due to climate change could be 5 to 40% by the end of 2100 AD.

(b) ICAR is studying the possible impact of climate change on cereal production through Network Project on "Impact, Adaptation and Vulnerability of Indian Agriculture to Climate Change" at different ICAR Institutes.

(c) There is no direct analysis of production decline in the last few years due to climatic change/variability. However, it is well known that increased temperature in February and March have caused some production decline in recent years.

(d) Wheat is likely to be more affected due to climate change.

(e) During Tenth plan period ICAR has initiated a Network Project on "Impact, Adaptation and Vulnerability of Indian Agriculture to Climate Change" at different ICAR Institutes/State Agricultural Universities. Emphasis has also been given during XI plan period to strengthen the existing institutional network to cope with the challenges posed by climate change.

Need to import rice

1945. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of rice would not be able to meet domestic needs and that the country may have to resort to import of rice;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the production of wheat is sufficient to meet requirement of those rice eaters switching to wheat;

(d) if not, the steps being taken to ensure self-sufficiency in rice and wheat; and